



Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE TWO FOUR

Bear Tracks



Official Newsletter of the Bear Aces

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2014



MISSION: To execute commander's intent through dominant command and control by leveraging the speed, agility and lethality of joint and combined forces to shape the battle space to our advantage and swiftly defeat any foe.



A Word from the Skipper



Bear Ace Friends and Family,

As most of you have seen on the news, we have had an incredibly busy past few months in the Arabian Gulf culminating with the beginning of combat operations against ISIS in Iraq and Syria. As they have done all deployment, the Sailors of VAW-124 have done an incredible job answering any new challenge with outstanding professionalism each and every day. I could not be more proud of each Sailor and the way they do their job. Since its establishment in 1967, VAW-124 has distinguished itself by being part of every major combat operation the country has participated in and today we continue to serve on the frontlines to ensure that Americans at-home or abroad are under the protection of the nation.

While our relief is on the way, we remained focused on the mission and making sure that we safely execute it each and every day despite the challenges of operating in the Arabian Gulf. The port visits to Dubai over the past months have allowed us some needed time to relax, see some sights, and talk with all of you. We deeply appreciate the middle of the night Skyping/Facetime and phone calls back to the states so that we could see how everyone is doing. While the food and free time in port is always appreciated, nothing is more important to us than being able to talk to each of you.

With autumn upon us and our time in 5th Fleet rapidly winding down, there are a lot of questions and talk about Homecoming. The best way to get information for this is to ensure you are on the Ombudsman's distribution list as she will put out the official information for the command. This will include information on the night before party (hosted by the GHWB FRG), instructions on parking, times, etc. Leticia has done an incredible job over the course of deployment, and I appreciate her leadership with the Homecoming events.

I would also like to welcome CDR Justin Fauntleroy, his wife Laura, and their children back to the Bear Ace family. CDR Fauntleroy is already making an incredible impact on the team out here and we look forward to everything his family will add to the Bear Ace family.

Thank you for your support as we continue to support our country where it needs us, when it needs us. There is no better warfighting team than the one out here, and there is no finer squadron than the Bear Aces of VAW-124. We look forward to seeing all of you at Homecoming as you re-unite with your Sailors.

Sincerely,

CDR David "DD" Dees





XO's Anchor



Hello Bear Aces!

First I would like to say that I am extremely excited to be joining the Bear Ace family as the new Executive Officer (XO). The Bear Aces were my first Fleet squadron and I'm glad to see that the Bears are stronger and better than ever. I cannot say enough how proud I am of your sailors. I fully expected that when I showed up five months into deployment, that I would find a bunch of grumpy sailors ready get home. That expectation was completely wrong! Instead, I everywhere I looked, I only saw smiles and a determination to finish the fight. The Bear Aces are truly a special squadron, and this is a direct testament to the culture that Skipper Dees and CMC Redfield have created and to the character of your sailors.

Usually by this time in deployment, the Air wing would be getting ready to turn over operations to our relief. However, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is attempting to spread their culture of fear and hate and is threatening the lives of Americans and our allies throughout the globe.

Instead of scaling back, we have actually been increasing our tempo in order to take the fight to ISIL and to let them know that America believes in democracy and freedom for all. We are answering the Nation's call, and the Bear Aces stand ready to take the fight to wherever the country needs us.

I know that it has been a long time since you've seen your loved ones, but know that they are performing an invaluable mission. It will not be long before our sister ship gets here, and then we will be on our way home after a short trip through the Mediterranean Sea. Remember to be patient with us as we "de-sailor" ourselves. Do not be surprised if your loved one wears flip-flops into the shower and sleeps with ear-plugs for the first couple of days! I promise, we will return to normal very shortly!

I look forward to meeting each and every one of you at Homecoming or whenever you can make it down to our hangar. Again, you should be very proud of your Bear Aces, and I am extremely proud to be part of them .

Sincerely,

CDR Justin "TooF" Fauntleroy





CMC's Corner

Bear Ace Friends and Family,

The light at the end of the tunnel is finally near! We all see it and I can only imagine you see the light even brighter. Your Sailors have done an incredible job this deployment and I could not be prouder of their accomplishments. The adversity your Sailors have overcome with equipment and the environment is mind boggling and somehow they continue to answer the call of duty each and every day. They amaze me with all that they do from fixing aircraft to having a safe and fun time on liberty. You should be proud of the contribution that you and your loved ones have made to the rich history of the Bear Aces and to our Navy. For that I thank you.

As the end of our deployment and time in the Persian Gulf draws near, I must remind everyone that Operational Security (OPSEC) is of utmost importance. The term "Loose lips sink ships" is never more important than it is now. Ship's movement is closely guarded so that we do not fall prey to a terrorist attack like the USS Cole, or worse. Social media is a gold mine that terrorist organizations use to gather information so they can develop plots to carry out against the citizens of our country. Please be very mindful of what you post on social media, because you never know who is lurking on your page.

We will be home soon! But with our homecoming will come many challenges. The George H. W. Bush Family Readiness Group has invited all of you to attend their October and November meetings where they will have counselors from the Hampton Roads Fleet and Family Support Center on hand to lead discussion groups on homecoming challenges and how to work through them. These sessions are very useful and are not just for the family members experiencing deployment for the first time. Please take time to attend one of these meetings, you won't regret it. If you have any questions, please contact our Ombudsman Leticia Mickels.

Thank you for the continued support as we draw to the close of our deployment. The team is only as strong as our foundation back home and you have proven to be the rock that we could lean upon during this deployment. We look forward to seeing you soon and celebrating everything that we have missed. Stay safe and we'll see you soon.

Sincerely,

CMDCM Jonathon Redfield





Advancements & Promotions



PS1 Schlemmer



LCDR Horn



Chief Pinning







Chief Roberts





Chief Pennington





Chief Cave





Sailor of the Quarter: YN1 Lee



Junior Sailor of the Quarter: AZ2 Kaighn





Blue Jacket of the Quarter: AT3 Delangel



Bear Ace of the Quarter: YNSN Raybon



Plane Captain of the Quarter: AN Cunningham





Re-Enlistments



Chief Phan



PS2 Langham





LS1 Ferrer



PS1 Schlemmer



Bear Ace Awards



NAVY COMMEDATION MEDAL

LTJG Jenks



NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

*CS2 Campbell
PS2 Langham
AT2 Macke
MA2 Abuan
YN2 Wallace*



GOOD CONDUCT

*AZ2 Larrahondo
AM2 Wyrick
LSSN Rivers
AE3 Lind
AM3 Jarp
AE3 Reynolds*

LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

*AMEC Pennington
AME2 Reed
AT3 Neu
AE3 Reynolds
AM3 Jarp
AN Powell
AN Anthony*

WEEKLY SAFETY PROS

*AE3 Armour
AN Powell
AT3 Delangel
AM3 Moore
AZ1 Love
AEC Huffman
AM2 Sears
AN Cunningham
ATC Malin*





Bear Ace Safety Pro



The Bear Ace Safety Pro is awarded to squadron personnel who have identified and/or corrected potential or real safety hazards ashore or afloat.



AVIATION STRUCTURAL MECHANIC SECOND CLASS (AVIATION WARFARE)

THURSTON B. TRIPLETT

UNITED STATES NAVY

FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTIES WHILE ATTACHED TO CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON ONE TWO FOUR IN JULY 2014. ON THE MORNING OF 3 JULY 2014, WHILE PERFORMING A FOREIGN OBJECT DEBRIS (FOD) FASTENER INSPECTION ON AIRCRAFT 603, AM2 TRIPLETT NOTICED AN UNATTENDED TOW TRACTOR, WITH AN INOPERATIVE PARKING BRAKE, ROLLING TOWARDS A F/A-18 SUPER HORNET. THERE WERE FOUR SAILORS WORKING AROUND THE SUPER HORNET WHO WERE UNAWARE OF THE THREAT THAT WAS UPON THEM. REALIZING THE DANGER AND ACTING WITHOUT HESITATION, HE QUICKLY JUMPED IN AND STOPPED THE TRACTOR, PREVENTING IT FROM SERIOUSLY INJURING HIS FELLOW SHIPMATES AS WELL AS AVERTING UNTOLD DAMAGE TO A CRITICAL WAR FIGHTING ASSET. FOR HIS QUICK ACTION, EXCEPTIONAL PROFESSIONALISM, AND LOYAL DEDICATION TO DUTY, PETTY OFFICER TRIPLETT IS HEREBY RECOGNIZED AS SAFETY PRO OF THE MONTH FOR JULY 2014. HE IS COMMENDED FOR HIS ACTIONS, AS WELL AS REWARDED WITH A DUTY-FREE PORT. BRAVO ZULU!



Bear Ace Safety Pro



AIRMAN (AVIATION WARFARE)

DAVID B. POWELL

UNITED STATES NAVY

FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTIES WHILE ATTACHED TO CARRIER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON ONE TWO FOUR IN AUGUST 2014. ON AUGUST 22, AIRMAN POWELL WAS CONDUCTING PLANE CAPTAIN DUTIES AND SUPERVISING A TRAINEE FOR THE LAUNCH OF BEAR 602. AFTER THE MOTORS WERE BROUGHT ON LINE, THE FINAL CHECKER SIGNALLED TO PROCEED INTO THE AIRCRAFT TO ENSURE IT WAS READY FOR TAKEOFF. AS HIS TRAINEE WAS GETTING READY TO SIGNAL THE FINAL CHECKER TO ENTER, AIRMAN POWELL NOTICED THAT THE PORT MAIN LANDING GEAR GROUND LOCK HAD NOT YET BEEN TAKEN OFF. HE STOPPED THE FINAL CHECKER AND SIGNALLED FOR ITS REMOVAL. HIS KEEN ATTENTION TO DETAIL PREVENTED A POSSIBLE DELAY IN THE LAUNCH OR DAMAGE TO THE AIRCRAFT. FOR HIS QUICK ACTION, EXCEPTIONAL PROFESSIONALISM, AND LOYAL DEDICATION TO DUTY, AIRMAN POWELL IS HEREBY RECOGNIZED AS SAFETY PRO OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST 2014. HE IS COMMENDED FOR HIS ACTIONS, AS WELL AS REWARDED WITH A DUTY-FREE PORT. BRAVO ZULU!



MWR Plane Wash





MMCPO Boiteau using some elbow grease



The MWR plane wash fundraiser raised \$500 toward command functions.





AN Cunningham looks surprised, but still working hard.



LTJG Ballard using goggles to protect his hair.





EAWS/ESWS



AN Powell



Raybon (EAWS & ESWS)



LS3 Denson



AD3 Deke



LSSN Cook



YN2 Graves





LSSN Ampon



AME3 Oliver



LS1 Matson



PS2 Langham



AME2 Reed



HM3 Limauro



Steel Beach Picnic



What? No PT today. Okay, but just this once.



Sailors enjoying the sunshine on steel beach picnic day.



LT Meehan flying her kite at the picnic.



Middle: LCDR Higgins, LCDR Picinich and LCDR Chivers.
Bottom: Lady Bears and Friends.



TAD Spotlights



IT3 Bynes



HM3 Limauro



AD3 Diaz



AEAA Smith



MA2 Dimon and MA2 Peterson: “Who can we arrest next?”



AMEAR Jencks



Change of Command

August 1st 2014



Commanding Officer, CDR David S. Dees
with Executive Officer, CDR Justin Fauntleroy,
with YN1 Lee in the background.





VAW-124



BEAR ACES

Thank you, Family and Friends for your continued support. This is our last Bear Tracks from sea!!!



VAW-124

Please email: justin.entsminger@cvw8.navy.mil for more information.



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